

**Viktor Nikolsky  
Captain, M/V FAINA  
Indian Ocean  
February 2009**

**Dear Captain Charles Rodriguez and the crew of USNS CATAWBA,**

**On behalf of myself and the crew, I wish to show my sincerest appreciation for all the support CATAWBA has shown us during our four months of captivity under the Somali pirates. Our liberation would not have been possible without your constant presence. It is difficult for me to express my feelings towards you and your crew. Our lives were spared because you were here to protect us. You gave us the strength to endure the hardest of times. We will keep CATAWBA and her crew in our hearts and prayers forever. We wish you a safe journey home and good health for all your days. Thanks for everything you have done.**

**Your friend,**



**Viktor Nikolsky  
Captain, M/V FAINA**

**Crew of M/V FAINA:**

*[Handwritten signatures of the crew members]*